

**MINUTES**  
**BROWN COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE**  
**Monday, June 13, 2011**  
**Green Bay Metro Transportation Center**  
**901 University Avenue**  
**Green Bay, Wisconsin**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**ROLL CALL**

Sunny Archambault	<u>          X          </u>	Sandy Popp	<u>          X          </u>
Diana Brown*	<u>          X          </u>	Cole Runge	<u>          X          </u>
Brandon Cooper	<u>                          </u>	Julie Tetzlaff	<u>          X          </u>
Pat Finder-Stone	<u>          X          </u>	Mary Van Acker	<u>                          </u>
Chris Hasselbacher	<u>          X          </u>	Derek Weyer	<u>          X          </u>
Kathy Hillary	<u>                          </u>	Tina Whetung	<u>          X          </u>
George Jackson	<u>          X          </u>	John Withbroe	<u>                          </u>
Debbie Johnson	<u>          X          </u>	Mai Yia Yang	<u>          X          </u>
Kathy Johnson	<u>          X          </u>	Vacant – BC Exec.	<u>                          </u>
Byia Martin	<u>          X          </u>	Vacant – BC Board	<u>                          </u>
Barbara Natelle	<u>                          </u>		

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Lisa J. Conard, Hans Shin, Mary Schlautman, Tom Wittig, \*Barb Zambon for Diana Brown, and members of JOSHUA (Sister Sally Ann Brickner, Cathy Putman, Judy Volgels, and Season Westphal).

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

C. Runge called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Committee and audience members were introduced. Mr. Tom Wittig introduced himself as the new director at Green Bay Metro. T. Wittig stated he previously served as director of the transit system in Davenport, Iowa.

1. Approval of the February 14, 2011, Transportation Coordinating Committee meeting minutes.

A motion was made by P. Finder-Stone, seconded by S. Popp, to approve the February 14, 2011, Transportation Coordinating Committee meeting minutes. Motion carried.

2. Introduction of George Jackson of MV Transportation and discussion about the transition to a new Green Bay Metro paratransit provider.

C. Runge introduced Mr. Geo Jackson.

G. Jackson provided an overview of the transition from Medi-Vans to MV.

In the first week of service, MV did not meet the 95% on-time performance standard set by ADA. However, MV has improved and has now reached the 95%+ mark. On Saturday, June 11, MV had an on-time performance rate of 100%.

G. Jackson also discussed the vehicle acquisition plan. Temporary vehicles were used at start-up and as the new vehicles arrive, they are being placed into service. All new vehicles will be in service by the end of summer.

B. Martin stated he was concerned about client drop-off locations.

G. Jackson stated that new MV drivers are learning the proper drop-off locations. Many facilities have more than one entrance and staff is working with those agencies.

B. Martin asked if MV had hired Medi-Vans drivers.

G. Jackson stated that MV has hired six. It is possible that additional drivers may be hired after Green Bay Metro adopts a driver background check/DUI policy for the paratransit program. G. Jackson stated that many of the other drivers are long-time residents of the Green Bay area.

K. Johnson stated that several incidents occurred in early May. MV arrived to transport a client in a sedan only to learn that the client needed an accessible vehicle to be transported. Information regarding a client's ambulatory/non-ambulatory status was not properly transferred from the previous provider to MV. Those incidents have been corrected.

S. Popp asked G. Jackson about the transportation of bariatric clients.

G. Jackson stated that MV vehicle lifts can accommodate 800 pounds (client and mobility device) and as per ADA regulations. G. Jackson stated MV has not had a request to transport more than 800 pounds.

S. Popp asked about the Green Bay Metro logos on MV's vehicles.

K. Johnson stated that the logos you see today are temporary. Bids are being sought for the vinyl or other applications to be placed on the outside of the vehicles. The words "Green Bay Metro Paratransit Services" will appear in large letters on each vehicle.

3. Viewing of the *Say Yes to Transit* video that was produced by the Justice Organization Sharing Hope and United for Action (JOSHUA).

*(Due to a technical difficulty, the video was not viewed. TCC members were subsequently emailed the link.)*

C. Runge introduced Judy Vogels of JOSHUA. J. Vogels explained that JOSHUA is an advocacy group and is concerned about the future of public transportation in the area. In addition to the production of *Say Yes to Transit* video, JOSHUA has been visiting with local municipal staff and spreading the word about transit funding issues and concerns. JOSHUA members will be meeting with US Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood in late summer to discuss this issue.

JOSHUA members provided a folder to committee members containing:

- Cover letter describing the project and link to the video with a request to contact federal officials encouraging continued support of transit.
- Fact sheet on potential impacts of transit cuts on public health.
- Green Bay Metro 2011 budget estimate and funding source estimate (taken

- from the 2011 Green Bay Metro - Annual Route Review and Analysis Report by the Brown County Planning Commission).
- Sample resolution developed by JOSHUA with assistance of the Brown County Planning Commission.

The *Say Yes to Transit* video was discussed. It can be seen on You Tube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=71JjqMnVzHg>

T. Wittig stated that he personally met with Secretary LaHood last year to discuss the funding issue. Davenport runs a small system, but because it is grouped with the other communities in the Quad Cities area, it experiences the same funding issue Green Bay Metro is facing. T. Wittig stated that Secretary LaHood understood the issue and T. Wittig expects the issue to be resolved favorably.

#### 4. Overview of transportation coordination efforts by local human services agencies.

L. Conard stated that staff was requested at the December 6, 2010, meeting of the TCC to provide an overview of local human service transportation coordination efforts. L. Conard stated that she prepared a staff report and that the report was included in the packet.

L. Conard reminded the committee that SAFETEA-LU requires communities to develop a *coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan*. In Wisconsin, many coordinated plans are compiled at the county level, including Brown County. L. Conard outlined the coordination plan efforts to date.

L. Conard stated that in addition to the broad plan strategies contained in the coordination plan, a detailed action plan is required. An update to the action plan is included in the staff report. L. Conard noted that the Brown County plan contains 19 action items. Each item identifies the responsible party or parties, timeline for implementation, and any roadblocks that prevent implementation.

L. Conard asked if the committee had any questions regarding the report.

L. Conard stated that maintaining the action plan is an ongoing effort and asked if any committee members had action item updates they would like to see included. No additional action items were suggested.

L. Conard noted that in 2012, staff may be required to update the plan. However, without a new transportation law in place, it is too soon to say for certain.

#### 5. Other matters.

T. Wittig stated that Metro staff will be reviewing all current paratransit clients' eligibility status to determine if they can use the fixed-route system in lieu of demand-response paratransit trips. If a currently certified paratransit client is found to be able to take the fixed-route system, staff will offer training on how to use the fixed-route system. This will likely result in cost savings as paratransit trips are very expensive.

S. Popp asked if any recent paratransit applicants have been denied and subsequently appealed the decision.

K. Johnson stated that no appeals were submitted over the last six months.

S. Archambault reviewed the status of the state budget. It appears transit funding will remain in the Transportation Fund and not be transferred into the General Fund as initially proposed. A 10% decrease in state transit aid is expected with a \$2.6 million offset to be used exclusively for paratransit programs. This will result in a net loss in state transit funds. S. Archambault agreed to supply the committee members with a summary she received. *(S. Archambault subsequently provided the summary to the Brown County Planning Commission staff and it was distributed to the TCC members via email on June 13.)*

Discussion occurred regarding the Wisconsin Department of Health Services cost savings initiative to use the private company, LogistiCare, to broker Medicaid-eligible transportation services effective July 1, 2011.

Committee members agreed this state-led initiative will impact local transportation programs. Committee members also expressed concern that Medicaid clients would be underserved. One of LogistiCare's strategies is to wean Medicaid transportation-eligible individuals off the system by having a friend or family member provide transportation. Another Logisticare strategy is to have local programs with modest user fares provide transportation (known as trip shedding).

B. Zambon stated that NEW Curative received a letter from Arnie Mahlik of Medi-Vans stating he will no longer be offering transportation services starting July 1, 2011. This includes Medicaid-related trips. Other agency representatives also stated they received this letter.

K. Johnson noted that at least two private transportation companies provide Medicaid transportation trips in the area.

T. Wittig stated that Green Bay Metro would be placing a high emphasis on marketing in the future. A new and improved website will be up and running within 30 days and noted information regarding the paratransit program would be included.

T. Wittig stated that he will be hosting an event on Saturday called "Coffee with the Director." Members of the public are invited to attend. T. Wittig will have a short program and offer the public an opportunity to comment on system issues. T. Wittig noted he will be holding the meetings quarterly.

The next meeting of the TCC is scheduled for:

Monday, September 12, 2011  
Green Bay Metro Transportation Center  
901 University Avenue  
Green Bay, Wisconsin  
10:00 a.m.

6. Adjourn.

C. Runge closed the meeting at 11:46 a.m.